



Department of Assessment

128 East Buffalo Street

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Re: Exemptions Due by March 1

NEWS SUMMARY: Many Tompkins County residents are eligible for property tax relief. Applications and renewals must be filed by March 1, 2003. For more information on property tax exemptions, call the County Assessment Department at 274-5517.

The Tompkins County Assessment Department reminds taxpayers that applications and renewals for real property tax exemptions must be received by March 1, 2003.

STAR Enhanced: STAR Enhanced allows a \$50,000 reduction in assessed value for homeowners over 65 whose income is less than \$60,000. The STAR Enhanced exemption must be renewed annually. Applications must be received by March 1 – all supporting documentation can be accepted after that deadline if the application was filed by March 1.

Senior Citizens' Exemption: For residents over the age of 65, the Senior Citizens' Exemption provides up to a 50 percent income-based reduction in assessed value for all tax purposes. Annual renewals are necessary. Applications must be received by March 1 – all supporting documentation can be accepted after that deadline if the application was filed by March 1.

THE DEPARTMENT OF ASSESSMENT IS STILL IN NEED OF APPROXIMATELY 800 RENEWAL APPLICATIONS FOR THE STAR ENHANCED AND SENIOR CITIZEN EXEMPTIONS. POSTCARDS WERE MAILED ON FEBRUARY 7, 2003 TO THOSE WHOSE APPLICATION HAS NOT BEEN RECEIVED BY THE OFFICE.

Basic STAR: Everyone who owns and resides in his or her own home – including 1-, 2- and 3-family homes, mobile homes, condos, cooperatives, and residences that are part of a commercial property – can qualify for the basic STAR (School Tax Relief) program, which allows a \$30,000 reduction in assessed value for the calculation of school taxes. **Once it has been applied for, the basic STAR exemption is automatically renewed.**

Not-for-Profits: Not-for-profit exemptions must be renewed annually.

Other Exemptions: Wartime veterans, holders of expeditionary medals, disabled, and combat veterans are eligible for municipal property tax reductions. Disabled persons who are under age 65 and whose incomes are limited because of their disabilities may qualify for an exemption. Farmers may be eligible for agricultural land or buildings exemptions.

Not every property tax exemption requires renewal, but many do. Changes in property owners' situations – such as age, income, or health – may change eligibility for an exemption. For more information, contact the Tompkins County Assessment Department, 274-5517, 128 East Buffalo Street, Ithaca.

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